

# TECHNICAL NOTE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE    STATE OF COLORADO    NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT NOTE: No. 2**

**July 9, 2010**

**TO:** All State Office Planners, Area, Field, RC & D Offices, and Plant Materials Centers

**FROM:** Marsha Sims  
State Archeologist/Cultural Resources Specialist (CRS)

### **Purpose:**

To update guidance for cultural resources management (CRM) to all NRCS personnel who have been trained or require training in cultural resources awareness.

### **Background:**

A State-Level Agreement (SLA - 2007) signed between the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and NRCS states that a file search, consultation, and field review for historic properties will be included in the planning stages of practices that have the potential to impact historic properties. The General Manual (GM) procedures for NRCS outline the agency commitment regarding CRM. Please refer to GM Title 420 Social Sciences Part 401 Cultural Resources and Part 601 National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook (based on Federal Register 36 CFR Part 800).

### **Filing information:**

This is a supplement to Technical Note Cultural Resources No. 1 dated July 1, 2010. File under #6 in the *Colorado Cultural Resources Handbook* available in Field Offices and the State Office.

### **Process:**

Programs such as the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) shall have a person meeting the Secretary of Interior's standards survey the area of potential effect (APE) and the Cultural Resources Specialists of NRCS meet this criterion. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) requires determination of the potential to impact by NRCS Field Offices (FO) and an unsigned CPA 52 submitted by NRCS FO to Farm Service Agency (FSA). All other practices adhere to the following:

- Record information on the "Limited-Results Cultural Resource Survey Form on Private Lands" (CO-SSC-1) on all practices. The instructions for completing this form are available to the right of the electronic version of the form available on eFOTG. Determine if your practice has the potential to impact historic properties. See section entitled "Ground-Disturbing Potential for Conservation Practices" in the SLA, Colorado Cultural Resources Handbook in #5, and Technical Note #1 dated July 1, 2010, for guidance and, if the practice

has the potential to impact historic properties, complete all of the appropriate portions of the form, otherwise complete the form through and including the portion entitled “Description of Undertaking/Project” and file the form in the landowner’s file. Follow the process below if the practice meets the requirements to impact historic properties.

- Determine the area of potential effect (APE). The APE includes roads for hauling materials (haul roads), borrow areas, the actual footprint of the practice, areas that will be affected in the surrounding area, areas that will be affected by this practice in the future, and surrounded by a buffer of 65 feet. View sheds on tall structures and audible range of feed lots should be considered in some circumstances such as those located near Federal Lands and homes. A buffer is the distance between the historic property and the ground-disturbing practice. The distance for a buffer is 65 feet, so this means: add 65 feet to the perimeter of your practice + haul road + borrow area + audible distance area + area that could possibly be impacted. The entire area is the APE and should be included in the entire survey area. Apply a 65-foot buffer on the map developed in ToolKit and this survey area is all that should be on the map.
- Provide a copy to the CRS for NRCS of the form entitled “Limited-Results Cultural Resource Survey Form” (CO-SSC-1) by attachment to email if the practices involved have the potential to impact historic properties. Always use the latest form from eFOTG, refer to the survey area, and describe your survey method on VII. Field Methods. For instance, in the description state: “Field Office staff provided a walking survey in 15-meter transects over the entire planned practice area including a 65-foot buffer. The locations on the map were plotted by GPS.” Supply the form for 160 acres + and four miles and longer, with the provision that the CRS will spot check larger surveys. Also attach the map created in Tool Kit for the CRS and a shape file of the surveyed area on CD. Instructions will follow regarding the shape file format. CRS will provide FO information regarding a file search at the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer’s (SHPO) data base and any recommendations.

**For Areas 1 and 4 Contact:** William Volf, Archeologist/Cultural Resources Specialist (CRS), [william.volf@co.usda.gov](mailto:william.volf@co.usda.gov) or if you have questions: 970-565-9045 ext. 115.

**For Areas 2 and 3 Contact:** Marsha Sims, State Archeologist/Cultural Resources Specialist (CRS), [marsha.sims@co.usda.gov](mailto:marsha.sims@co.usda.gov) or if you have questions: 720-544-2815. See the following regarding completing the forms.

CRS provides information to FO staff regarding location of known historic properties in reference to the APE. (A copy of the “Limited-Results Cultural Resource Survey Form on Private Lands” and a copy of the quadrangle sheet with the known historic properties indicated will be returned to those who are trained in the National CRM training for NRCS required every five years in Colorado).

- Send a completed CO-SSC-2 form to CRS if potential historic properties are noted in the survey area. Schedule an appointment with CRS if potential historic properties are in the APE and do not proceed with construction until after the CRS consults on a determination of eligibility or recommends alternatives.

- **Proceed with the practice after receipt of the response from CRS unless a potential historic property is indicated in the file and literature search or in survey of the APE.**  
An electronic record (PRS) of cultural resource management is required. Field personnel complete the portions of this data base listed as:
  - Undertakings Reviewed – FO reports review of project, activity, or program as site visits;
  - Undertakings Reviewed that have the Potential to Effect Cultural Resources (CR) -- FO reports review of undertakings that have the Potential to Effect CR such as those listed as PG or G on the potentials list and are numbers of undertakings and acres of undertakings;
  - Field Investigations Conducted – FO reports number of field investigations and record searches; sites identified are recorded (both as number of properties and acres of properties);
  - Sites Identified -- CRS reports listed or eligible resources, in record searches, avoided or treated.
- American Indian Tribes Consulted – Ute Reservations in Colorado.

If staff of NRCS, training in CRM required, locates a potential historic property in the APE, provide the CO-SSC-2 form to the CRS. The process should include the following.

- Identify site boundaries in relation to the APE. Arrange for the CRS to visit the location of the potential historic property if it is in or near the APE of your planned practice. The CRS will make a determination of eligibility of the resource based on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria, file a report and consult with the SHPO or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) involved and interested parties, and decide mitigation measures, possibly as avoidance.
- Wait for a response from the CRS after the site visit so that proper documentation and recommendations are available before implementing the practice.
- File search results and recommendations, provided by CRS, in file 420-9 that is not accessed by the public referenced to the landowner's file or in the landowner's file. Information regarding historic properties is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act and cannot be released to the public. Maintain this information indefinitely. Follow the recommendations provided with the file search.
- For program activities such as the Emergency Watershed Protection program (EWP), the CRS completes an intensive inventory for cultural resources. Staff in charge of EWP will provide a CO-SSC-1 form with the location to the CRS and clearly mark the location on a quad map at 1:24,000 scale.